

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: DECEMBER 29, 2021

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Monday, December 29, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Paul Wyman, Vice-President Robert B. Bray, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease; Member Jack Dodd was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Todd Prifogle and conducted by President Paul Wyman. Commissioner Brad Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Wyman offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the regular meeting held on December 20, 2021, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Wyman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:

PLAN COMMISSION:

Resolution for County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Plan Commission Executive Director Greg Sheline submitted Resolution No. 2021-BCCR-19 County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Resolution No. 2021- BCCR-19 County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Bray. Commissioner Wyman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF COUNTY INSURANCE RENEWALS:

Commercial Insurance:

Commissioner Wyman submitted the renewal of commercial insurance with Liberty Mutual including a total net increase of \$30,000.00; this includes insurance for property, crimes, cybersecurity, law enforcement, public officials, automobile, and umbrella. Most of the increase was for cybersecurity in the amount of \$20,000.00. Commissioner Bray submitted and approved the renewal of the commercial insurance with Liberty Mutual as presented. Additionally, Commissioner Wyman was authorized to sign any necessary paper work on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wyman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Workman's Compensation Insurance:

Commissioner Wyman submitted the renewal of workman's compensation insurance with Liberty Mutual including a decrease in premiums in the amount of \$37,000.00. Commissioner Bray submitted and approved the renewal of the workman's compensation insurance with Liberty Mutual as presented. Additionally, Commissioner Wyman was authorized to sign any necessary paper work on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wyman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Health Insurance:

Commissioner Wyman submitted the renewal of health insurance with Anthem for County employees. Commissioner Wyman stated that he is pleased to announce that the deductibles for year 2022 will go down from \$3,500.00 to \$2,500.00, and the maximum out-of-pocket expense will go from \$6,500.00 to \$6,000.00. Commissioner Bray submitted and approved the renewal of the health insurance with Anthem as presented. Additionally, Commissioner Wyman was authorized to sign any necessary paper work on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wyman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

BROADBAND INTERNET CONTRACT AWARDED:

Contract Awarded for Broadband Internet:

Commissioner Wyman stated that BerryComm, LLC has been awarded the contract for the broadband internet for rural and underserved areas in Howard County. Commissioner Wyman stated that in the next year or so, they will start by building what is called the ring. This fiber ring will be placed outside of Kokomo through many rural areas. This fiber ring will allow the public to have in-home connection. Commissioner Wyman stated that the County has already committed to \$2 million of ARP money for this project. The County has already applied for \$1 million out of the READI Grant Fund. Commissioner Wyman stated that when this project is completed, it will be close to \$15 million in total. Commissioner Bray stated it will be great to have BerryComm, LLC, a local company, be awarded the contract for this project.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Berry, owner of BerryComm, LLC, of 4316 N. 00 EW, Kokomo, IN, 46901: Mr. Berry stated that it is an honor that BerryComm, LLC has been selected to provide the best internet to the community of rural and underserved areas.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on December 17, 2021, in the amount of \$845,657.68 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Wyman. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expense:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on December 17, 2021, in the amount of \$845,657.68 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Wyman. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims for payment on December 29, 2021, in the amount of \$771,156.57 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Wyman. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
4. **Ratify Claims:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following claims for ratification:
 - a. Bank of New York Mellon in the amount of \$46,479.56
 - b. First Farmers Bank & Trust in the amount of \$500.00
 - c. First Farmers Bank & Trust in the amount of \$500.00
 - d. Judge Douglas A. Tate in the amount of \$1,816.07A motion was made by Commissioner Bray to ratify the claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyman, and the motion carried.
5. **Monthly Reports:** Reports were submitted for review and accepted by the Board:
 - a. Weights & Measures Monthly Report: November 16 – December 16, 2021

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Annual CSI Licensing Agreement with the Clerk's Office:

County Attorney Alan Wilson submitted the Annual Computer Licensing Agreement between CSI and the Clerk's Office. Commissioner Bray submitted and approved the Annual Computer Licensing Agreement between CSI and the Clerk's Office as presented. Commissioner Wyman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of Resolution No. 2021 -BCCR-20: 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Plan:

County Attorney Alan Wilson submitted Resolution No. 2021-BCCR-20: 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Plan. Commissioner Wyman submitted and approved Resolution No. 2021-BCCR-20: 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS ISSUES:

Happy New Year:

Commissioner Bray and Commissioner Wyman wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Land Purchase for the Industrial Park:

Commissioner Wyman stated that the land was purchased last week for the Industrial Park. This was formed by the partnership of County Government, City Government, and the Greater Economic Development Alliance. This will allow the County to diversify the economy by having incentives in place to attract new businesses to the area, as well as support Stellantis.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners
at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m. on a motion
made by Commissioner Wyman . The motion was seconded by
Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.***

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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